

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier version and listings.

1. (currently amended): An image forming system comprising:

image forming means that, in accordance with an image forming instruction, forms an image relating to subject data on a recording medium ~~having~~ provided thereon with an RFID tag that stores identification information specific to the recording medium;

detecting means that communicates with the RFID tag of the recording medium by ~~[[a ]]~~radio frequency communication and reads the identification information from the RFID tag of the recording medium;

database means that, in accordance with the image forming instruction, obtains the identification information read by said detecting means from the RFID tag of the recording medium and forms a database of the subject data along with the obtained identification information, ~~wherein the database means~~,

~~when an~~ the image relating to desired ~~the~~ subject data is formed on a first recording medium provided thereon with an RFID tag in an image forming by the said image forming means in accordance with an image forming instruction, said database means obtains first identification information read by said detecting means from the RFID tag of the first recording medium and stores the first identification information, ~~which is read by the detecting means from the RFID tag of the first recording medium~~, and the ~~desired~~ subject data in association with each other in the database, and

when the image relating to the subject data is formed on a second recording medium provided thereon with an RFID tag by said image forming means in accordance with the image forming instruction, said database means obtains second identification information read by said detecting means from the RFID tag of the second recording medium and stores the second identification information in association with the subject data in the database;

retrieving means that ~~retrieves~~ detects the subject data from the database corresponding to the first-identification information of the recording medium read by the said detecting means from the RFID tag of the first recording medium on which the image relating to the desired subject data is formed, from plural subject data stored in the database means, at a timing different from later than when the image forming operation for the image relating to the desired subject data is formed on the first recording medium;  
and

control means that controls, in accordance with a result of the retrieval by the retrieving means, the said image forming means to form an image relating to the subject data corresponding to the first identification information retrieved ~~detected~~ by the said retrieving means on a second recording medium already having the provided thereon with an RFID tag different from the first recording medium, said detecting means to read identification information from the RFID tag, and said database means to store the identification information in the database.

2. (currently amended): A system according to claim 1, further comprising:

selecting means that is capable of selecting the ~~desired~~ subject data from the plural subject data stored in the by said storing means.

3. (currently amended): A system according to claim 2, wherein at least a part of the said image forming means, the detecting means, the storing means, the selecting means, the database means, and the retrieving means are connected via a network.

4. (currently amended): A system according to claim 1, wherein the said detecting means includes a first detection unit for reading the identification information from the RFID tag of the recording medium in accordance with the an image forming operation by the image forming means and a second detection unit for reading the identification information from the RFID tag of the recording medium at a timing different from the image forming operation by the image forming means, and

the first detection unit is provided in the vicinity of a moving path of the recording medium in the image forming operation, and the second detection unit is provided at a position where the second detection unit can read out the identification information in the case where the recording medium is brought close to the image forming means.

5. (canceled).

6. (original): A system according to claim 1, wherein the subject data includes image data.

7. (currently amended): A system according to claim 1, wherein at least one of ~~the~~said image forming means, ~~the~~ detecting means, ~~the~~ database means, and ~~the~~ retrieving means is connected via a network.

8. (currently amended): A system according to claim 1, wherein the said database means further stores additional information, which is related to ~~the~~an image forming operation of the image of the subject data, in association with the subject data, and ~~the~~said retrieving means retrieves the subject data corresponding to the additional information in the case where information identical with the additional information is inputted at a timing independent from the image forming operation.

9. (original): A system according to claim 8, wherein the additional information includes identification information of an apparatus and application software which executed the image forming operation for the image of the subject data.

10. - 18. (canceled).

19. (currently amended): An image forming method for an image forming system, comprising the steps of:

in accordance with an image forming instruction, forming an image  
relating to subject data on a recording medium ~~having provided thereon with~~ an RFID tag  
that stores identification information specific to the recording medium;

communicating with the RFID tag of the recording medium by ~~[[a ]]radio~~  
frequency communication and reading the identification information from the RFID tag  
of the recording medium;

in accordance with the image forming instruction, obtaining the  
identification information read in said reading step from the RFID tag of the recording  
medium and forming a database of the subject data along with the identification  
information, wherein the database forming step,

when ~~an the~~ image relating to ~~desired the~~ subject data is formed on  
a first recording medium provided thereon with an RFID tag in an image forming by the  
in said image forming means step in accordance with an image forming instruction,  
includes said database forming step includes obtaining first identification information  
read in said reading step from the RFID tag of the first recording medium and storing the  
first identification information, ~~which is read in the communicating and reading step from~~  
~~the RFID tag of the first recording medium,~~ and the ~~desired~~ subject data in association  
with each other in the database, and

when the image relating to the subject data is formed on a second  
recording medium provided thereon with an RFID tag in said image forming step in  
accordance with an image forming instruction, said database forming step includes  
obtaining second identification information read in said detecting step from the RFID tag

of the second recording medium and storing the second identification information in association with the subject data in the database;

~~retrieving detecting the subject data from the database corresponding to the first-identification information of the recording medium read in the said communicating and reading step from the RFID tag of the first recording medium on which the image relating to the desired subject data is formed, from plural subject data stored in the storing step, from plural subject data stored in the database means, at a timing different from later than when the image forming operation for the image relating to the desired subject data is formed on the first-recording medium; and~~

~~controlling, in accordance with a result of the retrieval of the retrieving step, the said image forming step to form an image relating to the subject data corresponding to the first identification information detected in the said retrieving step on a second-recording medium already having the provided thereon with an RFID tag different from the first recording medium, said detecting step to read identification information from the RFID tag, and said database forming step to store the identification information in the database.~~

20. (currently amended): A method according to claim 19, further comprising the steps of:

selecting the ~~desired~~-subject data from the plural subject data stored in the said subject data storing step.

21. (currently amended): A method according to claim 20, wherein at least one of ~~the~~said image forming step, ~~the~~-detecting step, ~~the~~-subject data step, the selecting step, ~~the~~-identification information storing step, and ~~the~~-retrieving step is executed via a network.

22. (currently amended): A method according to claim 19, wherein ~~the~~said detecting step includes a first detection step of detecting the first identification information and a second detection step of detecting the second identification information, and

the first detection step is executed by a first detection unit provided in the vicinity of a moving path of the recording medium following ~~the~~an image forming operation, and the second detection step is executed by a second detection unit provided at a position where the second detection unit can read out the second identification information in the case where the recording medium is brought close to the image forming means.

23. (canceled).

24. (original): A method according to claim 19, wherein the subject data includes image data.

25. (currently amended): A method according to claim 19, wherein at least one of ~~the~~ said image forming step, ~~the~~-detecting step, ~~the~~-identification information storing step, and ~~the~~-retrieving step is executed via a network.

26. (currently amended): A method according to claim 19, wherein ~~the~~ said identification information storing step includes storing additional information, which is related to ~~the~~ an image forming operation for the image of the subject data, in association with the subject data, and

~~the~~ said retrieving step further includes retrieving the subject data corresponding to the additional information in the case where information identical with the additional information is inputted at a timing independent from the image forming operation.

27. (original): A method according to claim 26, wherein the additional information includes identification information of an apparatus and application software which executed the image forming operation for the image of the subject data.

28. to 32. (canceled).

33. (currently amended): An image forming system comprising:  
an image forming unit configured to, in accordance with an image forming instruction, form an image relating to subject data on a recording medium ~~having~~



provided thereon with an RFID tag that stores identification information specific to the recording medium;

a detecting unit configured to communicate with the RFID tag of the recording medium by ~~[[a ]]~~radio frequency communication and read the identification information from the RFID tag of the recording medium;

a database unit configured to, in accordance with the image forming instruction, obtain the identification information read by said detecting unit from the RFID tag of the recording medium and form a database of the subject data by using along with the obtained identification information read from the RFID tag of the recording medium by the detecting unit, wherein,

~~the database unit, in accordance with an image forming operation for forming when~~ an image relating to desired the subject data is formed on a first recording medium ~~being performed by the image forming unit provided thereon with an RFID tag by said image forming unit in accordance with an image forming instruction,~~ said database unit obtains first identification information read by said detecting unit from the RFID tag of the first recording medium and stores the first identification information, which is read by the detecting unit from the RFID tag of the first recording medium, and the desired subject data in association with each other in the database, and

when the image relating to the subject data is formed on a second recording medium provided thereon with an RFID tag by said image forming unit in accordance with an image forming instruction, said database unit obtains second identification information read by said detecting unit from the RFID tag of the second

recording medium and stores the second identification information in association with the subject data in the database;

a retrieving unit configured to ~~retrieve~~ detect the subject data from the database corresponding to the first identification information of the recording medium read by the said detecting unit from the RFID tag of the first recording medium on which the image relating to the desired subject data is formed, from plural subject data stored in the database, at a timing different from later than when the image forming operation for forming the image relating to the desired subject data is formed on the first recording medium; and

a control unit configured to control, ~~in accordance with a result of the retrieval by the retrieving unit, the~~ said image forming unit to form an image relating to the subject data corresponding to the first identification information ~~retrieved~~ detected by the said retrieving means unit on a second recording medium already having the provided thereon with an RFID tag different from the first recording medium, said detecting unit to read identification information form the RFID tag, and said database unit to store the identification information in the database.

34. (canceled).